

**Assembly Concurrent Resolution**

**No. 139**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Ridley-Thomas**

April 22, 2014

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Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 139—Relative to Parkinson’s Disease Awareness Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

ACR 139, as introduced, Ridley-Thomas. Parkinson’s Disease Awareness Month

This measure would designate the month of April 2014 as Parkinson’s Disease Awareness Month.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, Parkinson’s disease impacts one million people in  
2 the United States and its prevalence is expected to rise in parallel  
3 with increasing life expectancy, with projections estimating a 100  
4 percent increase in the number of people affected by 2030; and  
5 WHEREAS, Parkinson’s disease is a progressive  
6 neurodegenerative condition most commonly characterized by  
7 motor symptoms such as tremor and rigidity. Patients also suffer  
8 from nonmotor symptoms, such as sleep disturbances and  
9 depression, all of which can significantly affect the patient’s daily  
10 activities and motor functions; and  
11 WHEREAS, Life expectancy is reduced for all onset ages, with  
12 disease progression leading to severe disability and possible  
13 confinement to a wheelchair or a bed; and  
14 WHEREAS, Although treatments are initially effective in  
15 treating symptoms, 50 to 90 percent of patients develop motor

1 complications, such as “wearing off,” early morning akinesia,  
2 delayed response, suboptimal response or no response, freezing  
3 episodes, and dyskinesias; and

4 WHEREAS, Caring for Parkinson’s disease patients is a task  
5 that becomes increasingly complex and demanding as the severity  
6 of the disease progresses, until caring for the patient becomes the  
7 caregiver’s main or almost only activity, resulting in significant  
8 caregiver burden; and

9 WHEREAS, Increased awareness and expanded knowledge of  
10 the realities of life with Parkinson’s disease will allow the  
11 community at large to better support people who struggle with the  
12 challenges of this debilitating condition; and

13 WHEREAS, The National Parkinson Foundation, the  
14 Parkinson’s Action Network, and the Parkinson’s Disease  
15 Foundation are nonprofit organizations; and

16 WHEREAS, The National Parkinson Foundation, the  
17 Parkinson’s Action Network, and the Parkinson’s Disease  
18 Foundation have joined together to promote Parkinson’s disease  
19 awareness and support, including improved education, knowledge,  
20 research, and treatment; and

21 WHEREAS, The National Parkinson Foundation, the  
22 Parkinson’s Action Network, and the Parkinson’s Disease  
23 Foundation are urging patients and their supporters, health care  
24 providers, and the general public to demonstrate that they care by  
25 sharing the road patient’s walk, the facts about Parkinson’s disease,  
26 and the ever growing awareness about the etiology of the disorder  
27 and potential treatments; and

28 WHEREAS, The community’s focus on Parkinson’s disease  
29 and its impact on patients’ lives will help give hope for a better  
30 future for people with Parkinson’s disease; now, therefore, be it

31 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*  
32 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature designates the month of  
33 April 2014 as Parkinson’s Disease Awareness Month, and urges  
34 all citizens to support the search for a cure and to assist those  
35 individuals and families who deal with this disabling disease on a  
36 daily basis; and be it further

37 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies  
38 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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